

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /096 W

-----161413Z 059605 /47

P R 161330Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9510

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0540

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, DM, MO, GB, TO, IV, SG, FR

SUBJ: BENIN COUP ATTEMPT: GPRB OFFICIAL STATEMENT

SUMMARY: CPRB RELEASES RESULTS OF NATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY  
ACCUSING MOROCCO, GABON, TOGO, IVORY COAST, AND SENEGAL OF  
COMPLICITY IN JANUARY 16 ATTACK. STRONGEST MORAL ACCUSATION  
LEVELED AGAINST FRANCE AS "PREMIER INSTIGATOR." END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING JOINT SESSION OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF PEOPLES  
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION, AND  
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MILITARY REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT, MARCH 12, 13, THE GOVERN-  
MENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN (GPRB) RELEASED  
THE RESULTS OF THE SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF  
INQUIRY INTO THE JAN 16 ATTACK ON COTONOU. FOLLOWING 48-  
HOUR MARATHON RADIO BROADCAST BEGINNING SUNDAY, MARCH 13,  
CONCLUSIONS OF COMMISSION WERE ANNOUNCED EVENING OF MARCH 14.  
MAJOR POINTS FOLLOW:

2. "PRIME INSTIGATOR" OF COUP ATTEMPT WAS FRENCH GOVERNMENT, AS REPRESENTED BY FRENCH INTELLIGENCE SERVICE SDECE. LT COL GILBERT BOURGEAUD, ATTACK COMMANDER, IDENTIFIED AS AGENT OF SDECE, ATTACHED TO GABONESE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD. SDECD ALSO ALLEGEDLY AIDED AND ABETTED FLERD (FRONT POUR LA LIBERATION ET REHABILITATION DU DAHOMEY) AND R.G.E. (REGROUPEMENT DES GUINEANS AL'ETRANGER) IN RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES (GROUP ETRANGER D'INTERVENTION) AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER CONSPIRING STATES.

3. MOROCVO AND GABON CHARGED AS CO-UNDERWRITERS OF OPERATION. MOROCCO ALLEGEDLY SUPPLIED BASE AT BENGUCRA, OUTSIDE MARRAKESH, FOR TRAINING OF MERCENARIES FROM DEC 3, 1976 TO JANUARY 15, 1977. BASE PROTECTED BY MOROCCAN GENDARMES WHO ALSO FACILITATED ENTRY OF MERCENARIES INTO MOROCCO AT CASABLANCA AIRPORT. MOROCCO AND GABON ALSO ALLEGEDLY SUPPLIED ARMS, MUNITIONS, EQUIPMENT, AND TRANSPORT FROM BENGUIERE-FRANCEVILLE-COTONOU. PRESIDENT BONGO AND KING HASSAN ACCUSED OF PERSONALLY UNDERWRITING MERCENARY CONTRACT OF \$530,000 FOR OCCUPATION PERIOD OF FOUR MONTHS, "INCLUDING LEAVE" (CONGE COMPRIS).

4. TOGO ACCUSED OF HARBORING SECOND GROUP OF MERCENARIES SINCE OCTOBER 1976 FOR PURPOSE OF LAND INVASION OF BENIN IN COORDINATION WITH AIRBORNE ATTACK. INVASION WAS TO BE EXPLAINED AS REACTION TO BENINESE BORDER PROVOCATION. TOGOLESE PRESIDENT EYADEMA AND BONGO ACCUSED OF PLANNING ATTACK WITH BOURGEAUD AT JANUARY 2 SECRET MEETING IN LIBREVILLE.

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5. GABON, IVORY COAST, SENEGAL ACCUSED OF HARBORING BENINESE POLITICAL EXILES AND FACILITATING PLANNING OF ATTACK. IVORY COAST CHARGED WITH ALLOWING SECOND MERCENARY GROUP HARBORED BY TOGO TO REGROUP AT ABIDJAN. IVORY COAST PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT ALLEGEDLY OVERFLEW COTONOU NOON JANUARY 16. SENEGAL WAS CHARGED WITH FACILITATING MERCENARY RECRUITMENT AMONG GUINEAN EXILES, PROVIDING FALSE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, AND ALLOWING RECRUITS TO BY-PASS CUSTOMS AND EMIGRATION FORMALITIES ON THEIR WAY TO BENGUIERA.

6. BULK OF EVIDENCE PRESENTED SO FAR HAS CONSISTED OF TAPED INTERROGATIONS OF GUINEAN MERCENARY PRISONER, BA ALPHA OMAROU, AND QUOTATIONS FROM VARIOUS DOCUMENTS ALLEGEDLY LEFT BY ATTACK FORCE UPON DEPARTURE. BOURGEAUD'S IDENTITY PAPERS HAVE BEEN REPRODUCED IN GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER "EHUZU", INDICATING HIS EMPLOYMENT AS INSTRUCTOR TO GABONESE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD.

7. ONLY MENTION OF US HAS BEEN CHARGE THAT EMILE DERLIN ZINZOU, FORMER PRESIDENT OF DAHOMEY AND ACCUSED OF TAKING PART IN

COUP PLANNING, WAS RECRUITED BY CIA IN 1954.

8. COMMENT: RELEASE OF REPORT HAS BEEN DELAYED BY GPRB TO COINCIDE WITH UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE AND TO MAINTAIN "STATE OF SEIGE" ATMOSPHERE AT HOME. COMING ALMOST EXACTLY EIGHT WEEKS AFTER ATTACK, 48-HOUR RADIO BROADCAST WAS A MARATHON OF REPEATED INTERROGATIONS AND TESTIMONIES AND A PEP RALLY OF REVOLUTIONARY CHANTS AND MONOLOGUES. FINAL DENUNCIATION OF FRANCE WAS ISSUED NEAR MIDNIGHT OF MARCH 14.

9. WHILE IMPLICATION OF GABON AND MOROCCO CAN SEEMINGLY BE SUBSTANTIATED BY GUINEAN'S TESTIMONY AND CAPTURED DOCUMENTS, THAT OF FRANCE, TOGO, IVORY COAST AND SENEGAL, SEEMS LESS LIKELY. CHARGE AGAINST TOGO IS PARTICULARLY UNEXPECTED AS THIS IS FIRST MENTION OF ITS VARIOUS "CRIMES". ACCUSATION OF FRANCE AS "PREMIER INSTIGATOR" ALSO NOT EXPECTED AS OFFICIAL STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH THE PHRASE "COLONIAL RECONQUEST" HAS BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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BANDIED BY GPRB WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY. ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH HAS ONLY BEEN BROADCAST ON RADIO, APPEARS TO HAVE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF MAINTAINING PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AND KEEPING PUBLIC INDIGNATION ALIVE. POST WILL REPORT FULL DETAILS OF GPRB STATEMENT BY AIRGRAM. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS BY INFO ADDRESSEES. THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINS, PFOR, DM, MO, GB, TO, IV, SG, FR  
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